

NCA
VOC FOR IOP/FN

POLITICAL FEATURE NO. 1-1908
DON FRANKLIN/BONN

NOVEMBER 29, 1976

GERMAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT SPLIT
(TAPE INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR:

THE PLANNED SPLIT IN THE RANKS OF THE COUNTRY'S CONSERVATIVE
OPPOSITION PARTY CONTINUES TO DOMINATE THE POLITICAL SCENE IN
WEST GERMANY. DON FRANKLIN REPORTS FROM BONN.

VOICE:

THE BAVARIAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S DECISION TO GO
IT ALONE IN THE NEW BONN PARLIAMENT AND NOT TO FORM A SINGLE
PARLIAMENTARY GROUP WITH THE OTHER CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS REMAINS
A POINT OF CONTENTION BETWEEN THE TWO POLITICAL GROUPS.
CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY NATIONAL CHAIRMAN HELMUT KOHL HAS
CALLED ON BAVARIAN PARTY CHAIRMAN FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS TO
RECONSIDER THE DECISION.

MISTER STRAUSS EXPLAINED THAT HE AND THE LEADERS OF HIS
PARTY DECIDED TO CANCEL THE AGE-OLD PARLIAMENTARY ALLIANCE WITH
THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITION
AS THE OPPOSITION PARTIES IN BONN. BUT THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS
SEE IF EXACTLY THE OTHER WAY AROUND. AS THE PARTY'S DEPUTY
CHAIRMAN, RICHARD VON WEIZSAECKER, TOLD VOA:

TAPE: CUT ONE -- VON WEIZSAECKER

"I DON'T SHARE THAT ARGUMENT. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY
HAS BEEN THE PEOPLES PARTY WITH A VERY BROAD SPECTRUM OF SOCIAL,
LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE BACKGROUND. WE STARTED IN THE CAMPAIGN
TOGETHER, WE'VE BEEN WORKING FOR THIRTY YEARS TOGETHER. THAT
WAS THE WAY OF SUCCESS, THAT WAS THE IDEA OF THE FOUNDATION OF
THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND WE BELIEVE THAT FORTHCOMING
SUCCESS WOULD NOT BE STRENGTHENED BUT WEAKENED BY A SPLIT IN
PARLIAMENT."

VOICE:

IF MISTER STRAUSS' PARTY STICKS TO ITS DECISION TO OPERATE SEPARATELY IN THE NEW BONN PARLIAMENT, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WILL PROBABLY SET UP OFFICE AND CAMPAIGN IN BAVARIA, A REGION THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY LEFT UP TO THE BAVARIAN WING OF THE PARTY. THE BAVARIANS THEN WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO EXPAND THEIR OPERATIONS TO THE REST OF THE COUNTRY. MISTER VON WEIZSAECKER FEELS THIS WOULD NOT BE EITHER IN THE INTERESTS OF GERMANY OR THE PARTY.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- VON WEIZSAECKER

"SO FAR THERE IS NO SIGN FROM BAVARIA AS TO A FOURTH PARTY - THAT IS TO SAY A BAVARIAN PARTY - SPREADING ALL OVER THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY. IN CASE THE BAVARIANS MAKE SUCH A DECISION, OF COURSE THEY WOULD FORCE US ALSO TO BE CANDIDATES IN BAVARIA. BUT WE HOPE THAT THAT WILL BE AVOIDED IN THE INTEREST OF NOT ONLY OUR OWN PARTY, BUT ALSO OF THE STABILITY OF OUR WHOLE DEMOCRACY."

VOICE:

THE NEW PARLIAMENT WILL CONVENE ON DECEMBER FOURTEENTH, AND BETWEEN NOW AND THEN THE BAVARIAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WILL EITHER REVERSE OR CONFIRM THEIR DECISION TO GO IT ALONE.

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